

Wings over Alaska

BIRDING PROGRAM

Free certificates are awarded upon application for identification of 50, 125, 200 and 275 different species of birds within Alaska. Birds you have already seen count.

Goals

to get more people involved with birding;

to encourage birders to take their skills to a higher level;

to encourage birders to explore and discover more of Alaska; and

to encourage people to become more interested in birds and habitat conservation.



Field Notes





Watchable Wildlife

Wings Over Alaska is a Watchable Wildlife program of the Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.



Alaska Airlines is a sponsor of Wings Over Alaska.

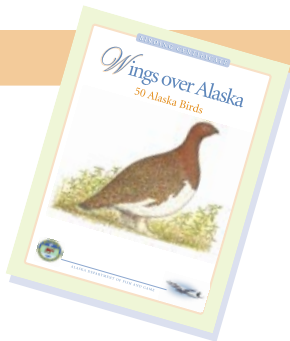
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www.birding.alaska.gov



Birding Certificate Rules

- All birds listed must be within Alaska when identified. For purposes of this program, birds identified when traveling between Alaska ports by boat, whether or not within territorial waters, will be accepted.
- All birds listed must be alive, wild, and unrestrained when identified. Birds at the zoo or a raptor center or mist-netted don't count. Birds at your feeder do.
- Birds must be naturally occurring in Alaska. Accidentals that got here on their own count. The neighbor's loose parrot does not.
- All birds listed must be identified by sight or sound by the person submitting the application.
- Applicants may be asked to provide details or verify listings. All awards will be made at the discretion of the department.

To apply:

Applications are available at www.birding.alaska.gov.

A complete application is required for each person.

Only one person may be listed on each certificate awarded.

Just one of each certificate per person please.

Questions?

907-465-5157 (Juneau)

Email: wingsoveralaska@fishgame.state.ak.us

Website: www.birding.alaska.gov



American Birding Association's Principles of Birding Ethics

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

Code of Birding Ethics

Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

- Support the protection of important bird habitat.
- Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger
- Limit methods of attracting birds
- Remain well back from nests, roosts, display areas, and feeding sites.
- Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

Respect the law, and the rights of others, including private property.

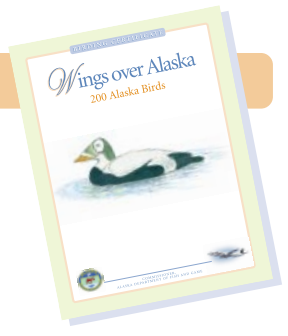
Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

- Maintain and clean feeders and nest structures regularly.
- Keep birds safe from predation from cats and other domestic animals and from dangers posed by artificial hazards.

Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

- Respect fellow birders. Share you knowledge, especially with beginners.
- Document unethical birding behavior. Intervene if prudent. Notify appropriate individuals or organizations.
- Leaders should teach ethics through word and example.
- Limit group impact on birds and their environment, and on others using the same area.

Full text of the ABA Code of Birding Ethics may be found at www.americanbirding.org.



Citizen Science

Keep and Share Your Birding Data on www.eBird.org*

Anyone can report their birding observations to eBird. Whether you check off birds the first time you see them or tally each individual separately, whether you record how long you were birding or casually record birds all day, you can submit and store your observations in eBird. Then you can display, download or print them whenever you wish.

Other eBirders, including biologists and other bird watchers, will periodically access the entire database of observations, including yours. There are a few simple ways to make your observations more valuable in these queries, each of which involves how you record your observations.

There are six pieces of information we need to know for each observation:

- 1) Where was the bird observed?
- 2) When was bird observed?
- 3) What effort went into locating the bird?
- 4) Who recorded the bird?
- 5) What species of bird was it?
- 6) How many individuals of each species were recorded?

Counting birds is relatively easy and provides much more information than simply knowing that a given species was present.

Knowing how much time you spent looking for birds and how much distance or area you covered conveys an enormous amount of information to biologists and other bird watchers.

* eBird is a Birdsource project of the Cornell Institute of Ornithology and Audubon